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Message Text

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64
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 SCCT-01

SY-05 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 USSS-00 CPR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /107 W
---------- 114966
O 030025Z MAR 76
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6128
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMCONGEN LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN,UR, ASEC
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY MEETS
TO DISCUSS SHOOTING AT SOVIET COMPLEX IN RIVERDALE

SUMMARY- COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY MET MORNING OF MARCH 2 AT REQUEST OF SOVIET MISSION TO CONSIDER SHOOTING INCIDENT AT SOVIET COMPLEX IN RIVERDALE ON FEBRUARY 28. STATEMENTS CONDEMNING SHOOTING WERE MADE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET UNION, UKRAINE, BULGARIA, FRANCE, IRAQ, COSTARICA, MALI, MONGOLIA, POLAND AND LAO REPUBLIC. EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY WERE CONVEYED BY UK. COMMITTEE AGREED TO DRAFT A STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST VARIOUS MISSIONS TO UN. THERE WAS EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS ON CASE OF MARINA TIENKIN.

1. AMBASSADOR KHARLAMOV (SOVIET UNION) SAID FEBRUARY 27 INCIDENT WAS THIRD CASE OF FIRING ON SOVIET BUILDINGS FOLLOWING SHOOTINGS OF OCTOBER 20, 1971 AND JANUARY 1975. THIRD INCIDENT WAS A DANGEROUS ESCALATION OF TERRORIST ACTIONS, AND SHOWED THAT US ASSURANCES REMAIN UNFULFILLED. IN FACT, US AUTHORITIES WERE CONNIVING (POPUSTITELSTVO) WITH
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THOSE RESPONSIBLE, CONTRATY TO HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.

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US ATTITUDE, HE SAID, FOSTERED "AN ATMOSPHERE OF IMPUNITY
AND VIRTUALLY PROMOTED HOSTILE ACTS." HE SAID THERE HAD
BEEN ATTACKS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER ONE SOVIET CITIZENS ON
FEBRUARY 12 FEBRUARY 16 AND FEBRUARY 18 AND THESE WERE
FOLLOWED BY THE FIRING INCIDENT AT THE SOVIET COMPLEX
ON FEBRUARY 28. HE SAID THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO
SECURITY OF MISSION WAS "EXTREMELY UNSATISFACTORY" AND POSSI-
BILITY EXISTED THAT A TRAGIC EVENT INVOLVING LOSS OF LIFE COULD
SOON HAPPEN. HE SAID SOVIET UNION STRONGLY PROTESTED RECENT
INCIDENTS AND DEMANDED NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR WORK OF ITS
MISSION.

2. ZAHAWIE (IRAQ) CONDEMNED SHOOTING INCIDENT AT RIVERDALE.
HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY ESCALATION AND ATTACKS ON MISSIONS
SINCE HE BELIEVED PERPETRATORS IN MOST CASES WERE NOT APPRE-
HENDED, AND, IF APPREHENDED, WERE NOT PROSECUTED. HE
SAW LITTLEHOPE IN IMPROVING SITUATION SINCE IN HIS VIEW, AUTHOR-
ITITIES WERE EITHER INCAPABLE OR UNWILLING TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM.
IN CIRCUMSTANCES, HE FELT COMMITTEE SHOULD THINK SERIOUSLY OF
MOVING UN HEADQUARTERS FROM NEW YORK UNLESS THERE WAS
EVIDENCE THAT US AUTHORITIES WOULD MOVE AGAINST THOSE
ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE TERRORIST ACTS INCREASE DAILY.
ZAHAWIE CALLED ATTENTION TO NOTE FROM HIS MISSION
REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF ZION SQUARE IN UN PLAZA.
HE SAID THERE WAS NOTNING WRONG WITH NAME "ZIION" AS
SUCH, A NAME REVERED BY MANY IN WORLD, BUT IN THIS
CASE, IT WAS CONNECTED WITH A MOVEMENT THAT HAD
BROUGHT ABOUT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION AND RENAMING OF
SQUARE WOULD ENCOURAGE TERRORISM IN NEW YORK.

3. AMBASSADOR SHERER(US) EXPRESSED SINCERE REGRETS
OVER INCIDENT WHICH HE STATED WAS INTOLERABLE AND
UNACCEPTABLE. HE SAID ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN
IN WASHINGTON AND AMBASSADOR STOESSEL IN MOSCOW HAD
EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET OVER INCIDENT WHICH US GOVERNMENT
CONSIDERED IMPERMISSIBLE AND SENSELESS. SHERER EXPLAINED
STEPS US WAS TAKING TO SEEK OUT, FIND AND BRING TO JUSTICE
THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOOTING. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION
TO FACT THAT ON FEBRUARY 12, TWO INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN
ARRESTED FOR HARASSMENT OF SOVIET MISSION OFFICIALS AND
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13 OTHER INDIVUDUALS HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR SIT-IN AT TASS
NEW AGENCY. HE ASKED CHAIRMAN IF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE'S STATEMENT REGARDING "CONNIVANCE"
WAS CORRECT AND HAD SAME SIGNIFICANCE IN RUSSIAN AS IT DID
IN ENGLISH. CHAIRMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WORD USED WAS
"CONNIVANCE". SHERER SAID THAT IF THAT WAS THE CASE, SUCH
AN ACCUSATION WAS "NOT ONLY UNFAIR, BUT UNTRUE." HE
SAID US DOING EVERYTHING ITS POWER TO ASSURE SECURITY

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OF MISSIONS, BUT THERE IS NO WAY TO PROVIDE ABSOLUTE
GUARANTEES; TERRORIST ACTS HAD OCCURRED IN MANY PLACES
AROUND WORLD DESPITE EXTRAORDINATY SECURITY MEASURES.
TERRORISM IS A GLOGAL PROBLEM WHICH CALLS FOR GLOBAL
REMEDIES. SHERER READ A LIST OF JDL MEMBERS ARRESTED IN
RECENT PERIOD WITH SENTENCES OR OTHER PUNISHMENT IMPOSED.
HE SAID US WOULD CONTINUE TO PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE
FOR ACTS AGAINST MISSION AND ATTMEPT TO SEND THEM TO
PRISON.

4. RELLIE (UK) EXPRESSED SYMPATHY TO SOVIET, BYELORUSSIAN
AND UKRAINIAN MISSIONS. HEWELCOMED STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR
SHERER AND SYMPATHIZED WITH DIFFUCULTIES OF HOST
COUNTRY WHICH HE SAID EXISTED IN ALL LARGE CITIES, PARTICULARLY,
WHERE THERE WAS FREEDOM OF SPEECH. SOVIET UNION HAD A
STRONG CASE, BUT HE HOPED SOVIETS WOULD NOT "OVERSELL IT."
CHARGES OF "CRIMINAL CONNIVANCE" DID NOT HELP.

5. KHARLAMOV IN A FUTHER STATEMENT SAID "POPUSTITELSTVO"
MEANT PERMISSIVENESS AMOUNTING TO CONNIVANCE. CHAIRMAN ROSSIDES
SAID "CONNIVANCE" PURE AND SIMPLE WAS TOO STRONG A WORD FOR
WHAT SOVIETS HAD IN MIND.

6. STATEMENTS CONDEMNING SHOOTING WERE ALSO MADE BY
O'LANYER (FRANCE) ORCHIRBAL (MONGOLIA) ZEJMO (POLAND)
BUNNAK (LAO REPUBLIC) BARISH (COSTA RICA) AND TRAORE (MALI).

7. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, AMBASSADOR SHERER HAD STATED
THAT UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WHO HAD PHONED PRESS AND TOOK
CREDIT ON BELALF OF JEWISH ARMED RESISTANCE FOR SHOOTING
HAD SAID ATTACK WAS MADE TO DRAMATIZE PLIGHT OF MARINA
TIEMKIN, A 15 YEAR-OLD SOVIET JEWESS WHO REPORTEDLY WAS
SENT TO MENTAL INSTITUTION AFTER EXPRESSING DESIRE TO
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EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. IN REMARKS MADE AFTER AMBASSADOR
SHERER'S STATEMENT, AMBASSADOR KHARLAMOV IN VERY EXCITED
MANNER STATED THAT CHARGES WERE UNTRUE. MINISTER ZAHAWIE (IRAQ)
STATED THAT US CONTINUOUSLY REFERRED TO CAUSES FOR INCIDENTS.
HE FELT CAUSES WERE IRREVELENTAND WONDERED WHY US TOOK
THIS POSITION. HE ASKED IF ACTIONS WERE CRIMINAL OR NOT
AND WONDERED IF REASON US REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUOUSLY
REFERRED TO CUASES WAS JUST AN EXCUSE.

8. COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN AFTERNOON OF MARCH 4, 1976
TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF ITEM.
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